



FTMW
Filipino Tribe
Mission
Welfare



NEWSLETTER

No 3 2009

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DIABETES CLINIC IN OZAMIZ

Did you know that things never be as you plan, here in the Philippines?

It can be better, it can be worse, but it never becomes the way you think it to happen.

So it also is with our scheduled and planned visit to the Diabetes clinic in Ozamiz coming April 24. Not, that it will not happen to be, but that I already have been there, and I can now show an initial report of the situation for the clinic.



Nurse in Diabetes clinic reception

Dr. Arce Lomanta Jr is a doctor that has dedicated himself into the practice of Diabetes treatment and medicine. He has already more than 700 members in his private clinic, and says that he can't charge more than p100 annually for the membership as of now.

He had the hope that the governor should give a lot for the new clinic, but since the cooperation with the provincial hospital was complicated to get realized, he is now building the new clinic on his own private land, in the city of Ozamiz. This has delayed the project and I can now show the construction of today.



Dr Arce Lomanta Jr and the new Diabetes clinic

Dr Arce Lomanta Jr is connected to the emergency hospital in Ozamiz but have his own Diabetes clinic schedule in Fridays.

His Diabetes clinic is located in the central downtown, while the emergency hospital is more far out from the town, yet in town. In between these locations, along the highway, Dr Lomanta Jr has now received the new container from Denmark, Europe. It is donated by Maersk Air, a Danish flight cargo company, and will later be equipped by Novo Nordisk A/S, manufacturer of Diabetes medicine, such as Insulin, among other.



Dr Lomanta Jr with female friend and investors

Dr Lomanta Jr presented two of his sponsors during the evening. They are highly appreciating the dedication and heart Dr Lomanta Jr have for curing people with Diabetes, and therefore help him to finance and donate what he need to realize the need for a clinic that can run ongoing in the city.

Since it is slow process in the government and LGU, the warehouse owners and other private industries understands the importance and does what they are able to contribute with.



The clinic is almost finished. The roof is placed, painting remains and some adjustments. Soon he will start equip the clinic with material needed.

Dr Lomanta Jr mentioned that he found out that he need some additional equipment that originally did not exist in the first clinic in Pototan municipality in Iloilo, but he will require from Dr Pasaporte and see if it can be included.

These doctors are very eager to develop their skills in new findings how to improve and make treatment and healing of Diabetes easier.

One of the worst problems they face in healing Diabetes is the patient's ignorance to follow his diet and exercise. Many, too many people suffer in the Philippines, to a too high cost of pain, due to that they do not take the disease seriously, but their wants for sweet food and laziness for exercise make them go in to many side effects of the disease.

I am willing to say, are we not the same in Sweden or maybe other countries as well?

OBSERVE that this is not a project or mission within FTMS/FTMW. You can find more information about Diabetes treatment at <http://www.novonordisk.com>

MEDICAL MISSION



In the same way as with the Diabetes clinic, this visit we reported about to Cagayan de Oro and the lifeline organization, I was able to execute in fellowship with Chairman Cholly Bat-ao and Director and Datu Teodoro Bat-ao in Friday, March 6.

What actually happened is that Dr. Sedigo called me in the Wednesday afternoon, March 4 and told that he was available at 9am, and since I knew that I should come there together with pastors Bat-ao, I accepted the invitation.

We met together with his wife, who also is a part of their medical mission. They have executed help over the whole island of Mindanao and many islands as well belonging to Visayas.

At the time, they have not received same amount as usual from their sponsors, why their ability to reach out also has decreased. Still, it is possibility to execute good medical aid in fellowship with their organization.

Since also many is afraid for Islamic, many is also afraid of Christians. To prevent violence, they will never come to a place without that a pastor have had an initial meeting and explained about their

own faith in Christ and what it means. If they are accepted, they come with their team and execute the examinations, surgeries and other help needed. The aid in itself does not force any to have same faith, only to listen and understand the Christian faith, as they themselves belong to.

As a Datu, Teodoro Bat-ao is a chieftain over the Manobo tribe in the municipality of Cantilan in Surigao del Sur. He have made a first negotiation for the tribal belonging to his area, and will now explain to the many Datu's existing, what this mission means for them and then they will investigate how to finance such a mission.

During a mission, it will attend a whole team with nurses, assistance, and doctors of different profession, to help the local people in an area. In one set, 500 patients are invited for free investigation and treatment, and free medicine is given according to received prescription.

The cost that is needed to be covered is the gas for the bus, food, medicine, materials for treatment and surgery. Lifeline organization ask assistance for food and lodging thru the local pastor in each place they visit, why they can cut the price for the team. All in the team is working for free, but since the sponsors disappeared, they now need to find local sponsors to cover above mentioned items.

OBSERVE that this is not a project or mission within FTMS/FTMW. You can find more information about CDO Lifeline's projects at <http://www.cdolifelineministries.blogspot.com>



MINDANAO – A TRAVEL REPORT

During the dates of March 5 to 17 I have been travelling to different places in central and western Mindanao. The reason for this tour was to establish contacts to different organizations, working for peace solutions in the island. I have tied bound to all kind of people, all of them we fear most to them we know little about, and here is a small report from my trip.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY



Initially I started my journey together with pastors Bat-ao, which is shown in separate article above due to Lifeline organization for medical aid. In the same time I visited there pastor Bert Senonis that has connection to another organization, called operation SMILE. Their help is extended to children with hare mouth, and since I am sponsor of a child in Alegria, Agusan del Sur, with that problem, I visited him together with Teodoro Bat-ao to hear how it proceed and to present FTMW for him as well, and tie bounds for future relations and help.

Pastor Bat-ao together with pastor Bert Senonis and his son



Stairway to heaven

To reach the church of Senonis, which is located in the summit of a mountain of Cagayan de Oro, can only be done through climbing a huge number of tires made as a stair, which I call “stairway to heaven”. It is really taking the breath to climb all this steps and he admitted that he have not many visitors to his church.

Bert is a church planter and he told that people in the valley lives in the faith that the most powerful ghosts is living high, why he built his church on the highest to show that God is the Most High.

In Cagayan de Oro we can see that there are a lot of organizations, bounded to the many hospitals that work in medical missions of different kinds, to help people in the island. The most known foreign doctors is from Belgium and Germany, but doctors from worldwide participate through many of these organizations, even Swedish occasionally.

On the Friday, night to Saturday I travelled to Davao and that visit is told about in next chapter called Visit to an ophthalmologist for Mamanwa child.

Since I ended up in Davao due to the eye problem of the Mamanwa child, I rerouted my trip, from originally plan going to Iligan from Cagayan, to go to Kidapawan and Cotabato cities in the province of North Cotabato. Many people are afraid of these places, but it shown that I have many good friends here, and the number of interested for our work increase.

KIDAPAWAN CITY

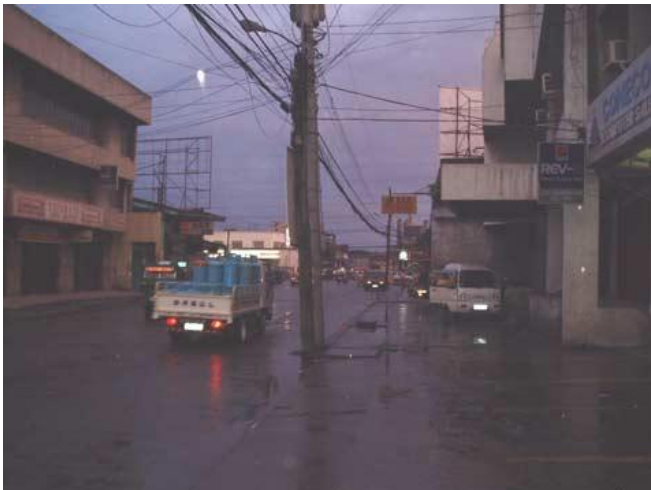


Kidapawan is a city on the route between Digos and Cotabato cities. It is a small city and has started to work with a Diabetes club too. Their club has only reach 250 members until now, and in one way it's good that many don't suffer of Diabetes, but the doctors told me that Diabetes is the most hidden disease in the Philippines.

Many patients are wrongly diagnosed for eye problem, gastritis, skin problems etc while the cause is Diabetes. The diet is not entertained, the patient have not fully correct medication and suffer many side effects, and many deceases eventually because that it is not found out.

The Diabetes team in the Kidapawan hospital is striving in their area to succeed in this work and hope to be able to establish a clinic as well in time.

COTABATO CITY



Since I had a friend in Cotabato city, I went there, but my intention was to go back to Kabacan in the next day and from there take the bus back to Cagayan de Oro for my further trip to Iligan. When I came to the bus terminal, they told me that there is a van available between Cotabato and Pagadian cities, which shorten the travel time.

Many Christians outside, like you too maybe (?) does not recommend this solution, since the area to ride the van through is sensitive area. The reason for this is that many of the isolated Maranao tribal is seem very dangerous, since they don't tolerate Christians at all, but kill instantly they meet. Now, in this route is a mix of Islamic and Catholic drivers, why the transport itself is considered safe, while stay in the smaller villages is to avoid.

After the success of cooperation between MNLF and the government, that they are now incorporated with AFP, gives a more solid hope for the future in the region.

I have myself new friends from MSU Mindanao State University in Maguindanao, that is Islamic and works for peace, and we hope to tighten these bounds better for our common wellbeing.





Sero Central School by night

I came late and went throughout the city, visiting places and talking to people. Unfortunately all my pictures are blurry by night vision since it was the situation this time.



Mosque by night

The people in the next barangay warned me to be in this area since it is very dangerous. I need to admit that you will have the same danger in all big cities worldwide. Not because of righteous Catholic, Protestant or Islamic, but because of drug abusers, maniacs, pickpockets, prostitutes and other with criminal minds.

Above mentioned people that are living a righteous life according to their faith, is not criminal or abusive but seek peace both in mind and acts.

NORTH COTABATO & LANAO PROVINCES



Going to Pagadian from Cotabato city, can be done, as I did, through taking a van directly between the cities. It is not appreciated by many, since this way is feared. As mentioned before, here exist separated Islamic groups that are much indoctrinated in the skill to hate. People that kill only they hear mentioned that a person is Christian. That is why we need educated Islamic negotiators, both Datu, layers and Imam.

While riding the van, we also pass through small villages alike in the rest of the Philippines, with the difference of the Islamic typical clothing and several mosques' along the portion.

However, along the highway is no problem to stay, the people are used to different kind of people that stop for eating and resting before go again, only that the van will not stop in the villages, which is normal in the rest of the country. I bought some typical Islamic candy/food, but I can't express or spell the name today, so I just say, it's sweet, look like chocolate feeling like rubber, smell good but are very filling in the stomach.



PAGADIAN CITY



The chapter of Pagadian would be long, because here I have a friend that is a tribal of Subanen tribe and gave me much knowledge of interest from their culture, I will go deeper into that in another newsletter, but initially we can take a look on the city itself.



Megayon is a Subanen word for unity, and this Megayon monument is erected in a cultural area where festivals is held in fellowship between the three main cultures here in Pagadian area of Zamboanga del Norte; Subanen – Islam and Christians. Once a year, to Christmas, a big fiesta is held to celebrate the unity and peace between these groups living in the province.



Subanen tribe has an own identity in culture and clothing. I will come back to this in a later newsletter this year, since my material about the Subanen tribe is including the exhibition also about Islamic and Christian settlements in Zamboanga del Sur. There is much information that I feel interesting to share with you... about how peace can last under a loving and merciful God.

To the left you can see their typical dress and a food cover to protect the food from flies.



Pagadian port is at the moment only residence for the fisher folk and the marine. The ferries are closed down at the moment.

It is possible to come to the trade market for fish and buy stock of fish every day, when the fishermen come in from the sea with their catch.

In spite of the gunboat, Pagadian is a calm and nice city with much to offer for the open minded visitor.



At the riverside, they have a river control and along this control, the poor people of Pagadian lives. Sure there are some that make good life, but in average, the circumstances for the people here is more difficult and the hygiene is not the best.

Still the people are happy and very friendly, something I had the joy to encounter when I visited one of my friends that lives in this area.



They were so happy to see me and that they actually had a foreign friend. All neighbors, not only my friend wanted to be pictured together with their new “relative” who visited them.

There are many skin diseases and hygiene problems in this area since the water bring many kinds of bacterial. Still there is no water purification plant built out or developed in the Philippines, as in many other developed countries. Hopefully, this awareness will be born also here and save many lives in misery.

ILIGAN CITY



Iligan is known by fear, since recently, because of the tragic happening between the Islamic guerrilla MILF and the Philippine army AFP, when MILF slaughtered many civilians while fleeing through the villages outside the city.

500 guerillas encountered 3,000 AFP troops and were drawn away from the area. In their flight, they killed all in their way, a “normal” tactic and sad enough, also approved by AFP who press them through.



The same have happen in the closest history, when AFP has used too much force and created panic on the streets.

At the moment, no worries rest in Iligan. Business is run as usual and the city reminds as any city in comparison to other in the Philippine archipelago. It shall also been made clear that the Islamic population is willing to give their view and they also tries to participate in peace events. The picture drawn up is often very one sided on the hand of the government.

DAPITAN CITY



The place where the national hero José P. Rizal was held in exile the four last years in his life, until four months before his execution in Manila, foregone by a ridiculous trial to show his treats against Spain.

Here is a memorial and shrine, where the houses and places he worked is restored to show how it looks alike at the time he lived there.

I will come back in a later number about Dapitan since my material is more concluding to have space in this newsletter.

Did you know that Dr. José Rizal, except from being a writer and ophthalmologist also was a farmer and teacher?

DIPOLOG CITY



Dipolog city is actually bigger than Dapitan, but this city lives also because of the story of Rizal. It has two ports and an airport. The city is nice placed along the northwestern coast of Zamboanga del Norte and more malls are under construction for coming tourists.



Along the river from the mountains stretching out to the sea, lives a people called the riverside people. I will in a later number introduce Pastor Vicente Barbarona Jr. that together with his wife and another pastor, Lyn Belarmino works hard to give education to their children and aid to the people living there in misery.

VISIT TO AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST FOR MAMANWA CHILD

As you maybe remember from previous issue, Mareth Salazar has an eye disease that could not be treated in Surigao city, but has to be executed through transplantation of her cornea. As we were in Surigao city with Dr. Go, we decided that,

1. She will have medicine for her right eye.
2. The doctor will contact Davao, who and how the transplantation is executed.

DAVAO

Even since Dr. Go promised to call me following Wednesday, he was even faster, and called me Tuesday just before noon. He told me following,

- DMC Davao Medical Center executes complete transplantations and has a bank of corneas from different donators.
- Mareth can be surged under their charity program, which will sweep away some of our expenses.
- We must pay the donator of the cornea. We have no price yet, but will get it later.

He told that we are free to come at any time, why I already suggested to the family Monday, March 9. In that case I will meet them in Davao, since I am in Cagayan de Oro and Ozamiz from Thursday March 5. At Davao Medical Center, they will initially measure the eye and make necessarily examinations for transplantation, and after this, we will wait for a donation.

Early in the Thursday morning, March 5, we left at 5am and climbed the mountain to the home of Mareth already at 6.30 am. We talk to her father and mother and her father followed us down to the gate of TMC to meet CRO Ionor Paqueo, responsible for relations to tribal, and made an agreement to assist the father and Mareth to come with the bus early Sunday morning. I gave money to CRO, since it will only be paid out on igniting the trip, and the father said he will come to Davao. The son of Teodoro bat-ao was appointed to assist them in the terminal of Butuan, where they need to change bus for the direction to Davao.



Already Saturday I arrived in Davao from my trip to Cagayan with pastors Bat-ao. Cholly went down already in the Friday evening, while I went there with the night bus. Teodoro went back to Butuan to take bus early Saturday back to Cantilan, since he had a Sunday service to maintain.

The reason Cholly did not follow, was because that her youngest brother was in an emergency situation in the same hospital, and needed surgery for his heart. Since they are Manobo and tribal, they could also check with the abilities to cooperate with the hospital in the case also for the Mamanwa child.



Already Saturday I was invited to meet my friend from the Lifeline consortium with NASCAR, Joey Dauz, since he were attending a divisional Rotary meeting, and he had friends there that could help me find room for the tribal.

He introduced to me a woman named Yheleen P. Veso, which is responsible of the district in World Vision. She went with me to a nearby hospital to DMC and booked a room for Mareth and her father.

When Sunday came, I waited for a message telling that they were on their way, but instead I received the opposite from CRO in Taganito that the mother of Mareth refused to let her go, since they believe more in herbal treatment than modern medicine. It was not

really a surprise, but a little, since we already had been spoken about why this treatment is necessarily for Mareth.



We could do nothing else than to cancel the room, and after that I visited the ophthalmologist ward together with Cholly, to see how it looks like.

During Sunday, no doctors are at charge and the nurse was quite refusing to tell about their work. I pleased her at least to take a picture to prove that I had been there, both to show you, who help us finance, but also to show to Mareth and her tribe how it looks like where they will be treated, if they want a healthy eye. I was refused to picture inside.

Thursday, April 2, I where in Taganito talking with the teacher, Edelina Perez, and we agreed that she will show the child to the parents and chieftain, at least once a month, and their evaluation shall be filled in a record, this to make them understand that it will not matter in her case however much herbs they will use. It is a wish that FTMW will support this teaching and be present if possible.

Mamanwa have an over belief in herbal treatment. It is natural since they lives in the jungle and have a deeper knowledge in how to use herbs in different occasions and how they heal. In cases like this, however, when they are infected of viruses that are not able to cure with herbs, they have no knowledge about that but seek the herb that can be curing.

We will not erase this knowledge they have about herbal healing, but preserve it, still that they will give themselves and the society a chance to cure more painless, when applicable, and understand the function of the society in cases like this. It is therefore we will offer them knowledge why vaccination is important against those diseases that is inevitable. In the history books we read how Christopher Columbus brought diseases to the Indians. This happen too many tribal in the jungles when they come to approach public education and work, something that they haven't been frequently participating in before.

GIFT – DONATION

This operation will give us expenses that are beyond our savings, and as you see, I try to find local sponsors through different charity program, government and other organizations. In the case of Mareth, we will seek help from two other instances.

1. MSWD in Claver, which is the municipality where Taganito belongs
2. NCIP is the governmental organ for the indigenous people, and they have funding for Mamanwa, as for other tribes. In this case it is needed that the chieftains are cooperative to us and the family, to release money for this issue.

Since we have extra expenses, however, in shape of transports, food, hotel, and hygiene utilities but also because of the education we now need to start to show the tribe the importance of vaccination to the children, and even so to the adult, which means that we are very thankful if you want to give a gift for this purpose.

If you send us a gift for this, mark it: medical project or CHP1100 (Child health care).

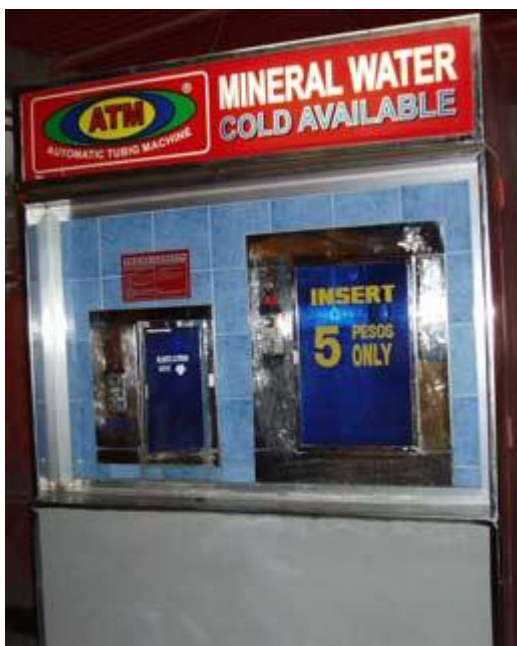
Thank you for your donation!

I ask our deepest and warmest thanks from me and our cooperators for your engagement. Book already now a visit at Torp this summer. It is located outside Örebro and more information can be found through EFK, Örebromissionen or Swedish Baptist Churches.

God's peace

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ATM
Automatic Tubig Machine

Quite clear what it was, right?

This one is available in Davao, at van terminal outside the bus terminal.

Sponsorship fee

The monthly fee for a godchild is
€20/SEK200 or €15/SEK150 for group sponsor
and can be paid as follows:

1. By autogiro
2. By payment card/bill which can be paid monthly, quarterly, half year or own choice.

When paid within Sweden, payment can be done
to account shown lowest this page.
Payment outside Sweden but within
Europe, pay to: NORDEA Sweden
IBAN: **SE31 9500 0099 6042 0418 2960**
SWIFT: **NDEASESS**

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